



¹ relief

noun | re·lief | \ri-'lēf\

Popularity: Top 40% of words | Updated on: 3 Jun 2018

Examples: RELIEF in a Sentence



Definition of RELIEF

- 1 : a payment made by a male feudal tenant to his lord on succeeding to an inherited estate
- 2
 - a : removal or lightening of something oppressive, painful, or distressing
 - b : WELFARE 2a
 - c : military assistance to an endangered post or force
 - d : means of breaking or avoiding monotony or boredom : DIVERSION
- 3 : release from a post or from the performance of duty
- 4 : one that takes the place of another on duty
- 5 : legal remedy or redress
- 6 [French, from Middle French, from Italian *rilievo* relieve]
 - a : a mode of sculpture in which forms and figures are distinguished from a surrounding plane surface
 - b : sculpture or a sculptural form executed in this mode
 - c : projecting detail, ornament, or figures

8 : the elevations or inequalities of a land surface

9 : the pitching done by a relief pitcher • two innings of hitless *relief*

See [relief](#) defined for English-language learners

See [relief](#) defined for kids

Examples of RELIEF in a Sentence

I felt such a sense of *relief* after I finished my thesis.

He expressed *relief* that the crisis was finally over.

Much to everyone's *relief*, the airplane took off without any problems.

What a *relief* it is to be back home.

Exercise is an excellent source of stress *relief*.

Both candidates promised tax *relief* for middle-class families.

Countries from around the world have been sending *relief* to the flood victims.

We donated to the *relief* effort for the hurricane victims.

My father lost his job and we had to go on *relief*.

Recent Examples of RELIEF from the Web

That means that North Korea has Russia, China and South Korea on its side versus the U.S, which is now one of the only powers arguing that sanctions *relief* should come later, CBS News' Margaret Brennan reports.

— [CBS News, "Kim Jong Un complains of U.S. "hegemonism" to Russia's Sergey Lavrov," 31 May 2018](#)

In addition to *relief* from our early-season heat wave, the brisk, full-fetch winds are expected to create dangerous swimming conditions along the Illinois and Indiana shoreline, with rip currents likely into early Saturday.

— [Tom Skilling, *chicagotribune.com*, "First days of June to bring a break from heat," 31 May 2018](#)

Canada and Mexico also rejected the Trump administration's suggestion of linking tariff *relief* to the outcome of ongoing talks to revamp the North American Free Trade Agreement.

— [Fortune, "U.S. Is Set to Impose Tariffs on Steel From EU, Canada, Mexico," 31 May 2018](#)

These example sentences are selected automatically from various online news sources to reflect current usage of the word 'relief.' Views expressed in the examples do not represent the opinion of Merriam-Webster or its editors. [Send us feedback.](#)

Illustration of RELIEF

RELIEF Synonyms

Synonyms

alleviation, comfort, ease, release

²relief

adjective

Definition of RELIEF

- 1 : providing relief
- 2 : characterized by surface inequalities
- 3 : of or used in letterpress

First Known Use of RELIEF

1776

in the meaning defined at sense 1

Phrases Related to RELIEF

[disaster relief](#)

[relief road](#)

RELIEF Defined for English Language Learners

relief

noun

Definition of RELIEF for English Language Learners

- : a pleasant and relaxed feeling that someone has when something unpleasant stops or does not happen
- : the removal or reducing of something that is painful or unpleasant
- : things (such as food, money, or medicine) that are given to help people who are victims of a war, earthquake, flood, etc.

RELIEF Defined for Kids

relief

noun | re·lief | \ri-'lēf\

Definition of RELIEF for Students

- 1 : the feeling of happiness that occurs when something unpleasant or distressing stops or does not happen • What a *relief* to be home safe.
- 2 : removal or lessening of something painful or troubling • I need *relief* from this headache

- 4 : release from a post or from performance of a duty • *relief* of a guard
- 5 : [WELFARE 2](#)
- 6 : a sculpture in which figures or designs are raised from a background
- 7 : elevations of a land surface • The map shows *relief*.

Medical Dictionary

relief

noun | re·lief | \ri-'lēf\

Medical Definition of RELIEF

: removal or lightening of something oppressive or distressing • *relief* of pain
• symptomatic *relief*

Law Dictionary

relief

noun | re·lief

Legal Definition of RELIEF

: redress, assistance, or protection given by law especially from a court • should state what *relief* the plaintiff seeks : as

a : release from obligation or duty • *relief* from judgment

b : an order from a court granting a particular remedy (as return of property)
• injunctive *relief* • declaratory *relief* — see also [REMEDY](#)

See [words that rhyme with relief](#)

Thesaurus: [All synonyms and antonyms for relief](#)

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Britannica English: [Translation of relief for Arabic speakers](#)

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WORD OF THE DAY

unbeknownst

without being known about by (someone)

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